

Farm and garden
news from local
and national writers.



Grasshoppers are out

The grasshoppers are out in force.

Check your gardens to see if the little chewers have arrived and are eating holes in your plants.

If the grasshoppers are still green, a spray of malathion will be effective, but if they have turned tan or brown, it will take another method of control.

The Utah State University Extension Service is recommending 2 methods of control:

- Grasshopper spore (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), also known as Dipel or Thuricide, is effective against grasshoppers, worms and caterpillars. Another advantage is that it is harmless to other forms of life, including earthworms. It contains a bacteria that affects only those particular insects. Be sure to follow the instructions on the container.

- A spray of liquid Sevin mixed with molasses and bran. This can be broadcast through the garden. The molasses and bran attract the hoppers, and the Sevin takes

care of them.

If you have hoppers in your garden, take care of them as soon as possible. They grow rapidly and they can do a tremendous amount of damage in a short time.

Dipel or Thuricide is also effective against the Tobacco Budworm, the little insect that eats the buds of your petunias and geraniums. The insecticide should be applied about every 2 weeks.

It can also be used to free your cabbage and broccoli of worms and loopers. Just spray it on the plants and let it go to work.

Cultivation won't take the place of watering, but it will conserve water in the soil. Moisture is the great temperature regulator for the soil, so without it your plants will bake or die of thirst.

Cultivate the soil first, then water, then spread an inch or 2 of mulch over it for best results. The mulch acts as a parasol and an insulated seal to hold the moisture and keep the plants cool. The mulch



Josephine
Zimmerman
Staff Writer

must be light enough to admit air, and airy enough to keep out excessive heat.

Mulch that is too compact will do more harm than good.

The mulch should be raked off in the fall so the soil can be cultivated. It can be saved for soil conditioning or composted.

Keep your garden clean.

Clip spent blossoms, dried stalks and other plant materials that have passed their prime.

Rake up fallen leaves and twigs.

To keep annual flowers blooming, you must keep the blossoms cut as soon as they begin to fade. Many perennials will produce a second blooming later in the season if the old stalks are removed as soon as they are through blooming. Water them well and give them a feeding of fertilizer.

Hedges should be kept trimmed. Frequent trimmings produces a thick green surface growth, as opposed to unsightly open spots. Be sure to trim the hedge so that the top is narrower than the bottom. Many gardeners trim them the opposite way.

If the top is narrower, sunlight can reach the entire surface. If the top is wider, often sun can't reach the bottom and you have bare, stalky branches there instead of leaves.

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Grasshoppers